

Senate clears Woodson for cabinet post

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cate.

As Civil Service Commission president, Woodson said he would look closely at a study by the Legislature's watchdog agency, the Office of Fiscal Affairs (OFA), which found that Civil Service regulations were frequently circumvented.

"I'm convinced some changes should be affected. Civil Service originally was conceived of as a kind of in-house union, but that function is no longer.

"Today they can do a better job on in-service training and merit system action. We'll take a look at all of that," Woodson promised.

He noted that Civil Service specifications for a job frequently are not drawn up on a general basis but "specifically for certain individuals."

"Not long ago my office found one department had drawn Civil Service specifications for a job stating the person shall have served as an acting director. Now, that would eliminate anybody else. That's unfair, and we got it knocked out of the specification."

Woodson also mentioned that employees complained to him that they were forced to take tests which had nothing to do with the jobs they were seeking.

Assemblyman Barbour, who would earn \$41,000 as a PUC member, was a deputy attorney general from 1956 to 1960. He told the Senate Judiciary Committee that he would take as many courses in public utility regulation as he could and that he had no preconceptions about the job.

After the interview, Sen. Barry T. Parker (R-Burlington), whose district includes Maple Shade where Barbour resides, exercised his power as a home county senator to hold up the nomination.

Parker said he used the unwritten senatorial courtesy rule — not because he has any personal objections to Barbour — but because he was only notified Wednesday night that the nomination was going in and he felt there should be more public notice.

Parker said if Barbour left the Assembly it would mean a special election with candidates named by county committee instead of a primary, "so the public can't participate in selection of a candidate . . . it's a political ploy."

Parker also mentioned he had heard that Barbour's health was bad. He said he had not asked Barbour about it.

Barbour said that in 1970 he had been operated on for bleeding in the lower abdominal tract and "there was no cancer connected. It was more of an allergy problem."

He said he operated for ulcerative colitis had been from work for two months at the outside.